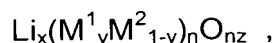


## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A process for preparing lithium transition metallates of the general formula



wherein

$\text{M}^1$  represents nickel, cobalt or manganese,

$\text{M}^2$  represents chromium, cobalt, iron, manganese, molybdenum or aluminium and is not identical to  $\text{M}^1$ ,

$n$  is 2 if  $\text{M}^1$  is manganese, otherwise 1,

$x$  is a number between 0.9 and 1.2,

$y$  is a number between 0.5 and 1.0 and

$z$  is a number between 1.9 and 2.1,

by calcining an intimate mixture of oxygen-containing transition metal compounds and an oxygen-containing lithium compound, which has been obtained by treating a solid powdered transition metal compound with a solution of the lithium compound and drying, wherein at least the  $\text{M}^1$  compound is used in the form of a powder with a specific surface area of at least  $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  (BET) and calcination is performed in a moving bed.

2. (Previously Amended) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the transition metallate is milled and sieved after calcination and the finer fraction from sieving is recycled to the moving bed.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

- $\beta^1$  3. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein a mixed transition metal compound which contains at least some of the  $\text{M}^2$  compound is used as the [in a solution of the lithium compound for impregnating the]  $\text{M}^1$  compound.

4. (Previously Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the solution of lithium compound contains at least some of the  $\text{M}^2$  compound.

5. (Previously Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein calcination is performed in a rotary kiln, in a fluidised bed or in a fall-shaft reactor (downer).

6. (Previously Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein following calcination, milling is performed and, after milling, further calcination is performed in an oxygen-containing atmosphere.

7. (Previously Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein  $\text{LiNO}_3$  is used as the lithium compound and  $\text{Ni(OH)}_2$  is used as the  $\text{M}^1$  transition metal compound.

8. (Previously Amended) A process according to Claim 7, wherein  $\text{NO}_2$  released during calcination is recovered as nitric acid and is reacted with  $\text{LiOH}$  to give  $\text{LiNO}_3$  which is used as the lithium compound.

9. (Previously Amended) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the transition metal compound treated with the solution of a lithium compound is dried by spray drying or mixer granulation.